A.—Sri K. V. SHANKARA GOWDA (Minister for Agriculture and Education).—

(*a*) There are 28 Adult Education Centres in Gulbarga District as follows :—

1	Shorapur Taluk	...	20
2	Yadgir Taluk	...	8
	Total	...	28

(*b*) All the above centres are functioning.

2-00 P.M.

CALL ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Sri H. D. DEVE GOWDA (Holenarsipur).—Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation regarding the stoppage of drinking water at Halli-Mysore village in Holenarsipur Taluk, Hassan District, under Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

† Sri P. M. NADGOUDA (Minister for Development and Co-operation).—Sir, the water supply scheme under the N.R.W.S. Scheme has been executed at Halli-Mysore village and handed over to the Panchayat for being maintained in the year 1960–61. The panchayat has to credit its share of cost amounting to Rs. 10,796 being 25 per cent of the cost of the scheme and tools and plant charges. The panchayat was advised as long back as on 29-6-1962, to pay the amount in 15 annual instalments at Rs. 719-74 paise per year starting from the year 1963–64 by making due provision in its budget every year. In spite of repeated instructions, the panchayat did not take any action to pay instalments. Therefore, the Treasury Officer, Holenarsipur, was authorised under Section 201 (2) of the Village Panchayat and Local Boards Act to adjust the overdue instalments for the years 1963–64 and 1964–65 amounting to Rs. 1,439-48. A sum of Rs. 1,000 which was available at the credit of the panchayat was adjusted to the Government, leaving a balance of Rs. 439-48 for the year 1964–65.

The panchayat has allowed further instalments to fall in arrears as follows :

1.	1964–65	balance	Rs. 439–48
2.	1965 66	balance	Rs. 719–74
3.	1966–67		Rs. 719–74
4.	1967–68		Rs. 719–74
	Total	...	Rs. 2,598-70

Since the Panchayat did not pay the above amounts in spite of repeated instructions and was found to be utilising its funds over other items of expenditure, without discharging its earlier commitment towards the water supply scheme, the Accountant General, Bangalore, was requested to instruct the Treasury Officer not to honour the cheques issued by the Panchayat, till the amount at its credit was built up to the extent necessary for being adjusted towards the overdue instalments. The Accountant General has taken measures accordingly. Thus, the Panchayat has been unable to operate on its funds.

The water supply is reported to have been stopped in July 1967, not only for non-payment of the current charges amounting to Rs. 470-60 but also on account of damage caused to pumpset. The Panchayat which was functioning till January 1968, has not taken any measures to pay the current charges and to get the pumpset repaired. Only after dissolution of the Panchayat in the process of regrouping of Panchayats and appointment of the Chief Executive Officers, Taluk Development Board, Holenarsipur, as the Administrator, action has been taken to call for quotations for the repairs of the pumpset. The villagers are using water from the existing drinking water wells.

It is reported by the Deputy Commssioner, Hassan, that only on the 23rd February 1968, a telegram was received by him about this stoppage of water and that a representation was received also on 1st March 1968 from Sri H. K. Venkatesh Avadhani, a member of the Taluk Board, Holenarsipur, for affording relief. It is further reported that the annual income of the Panchayat is Rs. 2,500 and a sum of Rs. 5,106 has been left in arrears. There is only a sum of Rs. 1,669-90 at the credit of the Panchayat as on 10-2-68 including the 30 per cent L. R. assignment grant of Rs. 946.34 adjusted to the Panchayat during the current year.

The Panchayat has failed to collect the taxes and to meet the cost of water supply on the plea that chronic drought conditions were prevailing in the area.

For restoring water supply to the village, a sum of Rs 800 will be required for paying the current charges and repairing the pumpsets apart from the overdue instalments.

The matter has also been brought to the notice of Government by the hon'ble Member Sri H. D. Deve Gowda on 28-2-68. It is requested therein that the amount due by the Panchayat may be sanctioned as an *ad hoc* grant or from 5 per cent L. R. assignment. The 5 per cent L. R. assignment is not meant for such purposes. However, the question of sanctioning an *ad hoc* grant to the Pachayat as requested by the Member is being examined.